

# Managing for the Future

In the year 2000, many organizations and groups reflected on the past century and millennium and considered the future. The cultural resources/historic preservation field was no exception. In December 2000, the National Park Service, along with many of its partner organizations, convened the conference, "Cultural Resources 2000: Managing for the Future," in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The goal of the conference was to "increase awareness of the value of cultural resources, strengthen communications among National Park Service cultural resources staff and its partners, and discuss best practices and recent developments in cultural resources management."

The essays contained in this issue of *CRM* are derived from the dozens of papers presented at the conference. They are representative of the range of subject matter and points of view found in cultural resources work. The subject matter covers historical architecture, cultural diversity, archeology, curatorial concerns, gender and other aspects of social history, and cultural landscapes. Within each of the essays, the authors provide insight into appropriate approaches and methodologies. The authors' views are shaped by the nature of their discipline, training, and work experience. Generational factors may also be relevant. Readers may agree or disagree with the authors' approaches; such debates are essential ingredients in a healthy and vigorous field.

What is most telling about the essays is the dynamic nature of cultural resources work. What was considered "cultural resources work" several decades ago has been broadened considerably to include the input of many more professionals and communities. Those who work in the field must update their approaches in order to meet the changes that are sweeping over the nation—the increasingly diverse nature of the population, technological advances, and the many forces that alter the American landscape. All of these changes affect how information is gathered and used, how new types of cultural resources are integrated into new or existing programs, and how various professional and advocacy groups can enhance opportunities for the preservation and interpretation of the nation's past.

This *CRM* opens a window into the state of the cultural resources field in the year 2000. We hope that its contents will stimulate discussion with the authors and advance the work of the professions that contribute to this field. While the year 2000 may serve as a benchmark, the many ideas that it stimulated should benefit society for years to come.

Antoinette J. Lee  
Guest Editor

*The conference, "CR 2000: Managing for the Future," was a collaborative effort among the National Park Service cultural resources offices in Washington, DC, and the regions, and the many colleagues who responded to the call for conference papers and presentations. Under the leadership of Kate Stevenson, Associate Director, Cultural Resource Stewardship and Partnerships, the planning team included Sande Anderson, Alaska Region; Kirk Cordell, Southeast Region; Craig Kenkel, Midwest Region; John Maounis, Northeast Region; John Robbins, Washington Office; Bob Spude, Intermountain Region; Pat Tiller, Washington Office; Stephanie Toothman, Pacific West Region; and Rodd Wheaton, Intermountain Region. Emily Dekker-Fiala of The George Wright Society assisted in planning and producing the conference.*

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